

Corporation for National and Community Service

DISASTER SERVICES UPDATE 8/22/12

West Virginia Derecho Response

A severe storm affected areas in northern Virginia, southern Maryland and the District of Columbia on Friday, June 29th. This storm downed trees and has caused severe power outages.

NEW Step by Step VISTA

June 29th

Two VISTAs, working with South Park Village housing project, assisted with the post-derecho relief effort there. Within a week of starting this project, they collected and distributed donations of water, food, ice and other supplies to the residents of South Park Village through the help of Manna Meal and other donations from local businesses and individuals. During the first week after the storm, the VISTAs and Step by Step were the only assistance coming to this impoverished community.

DROUGHT RECOVERY

The Disaster Services Unit has begun work with the White House Rural Council to identify ways that National Service can assist with the response and recovery in affected areas. The DSU is collaborating with other federal agencies, including the inter-agency Economic Recovery Support Annex.

TROPICAL STORM DEBBY

In late June, Tropical Storm Debby flooded thousands of homes, washed out roads, opened up sinkholes and closed a section of Interstate 10 — the state's main east-west highway. Four people were killed in the storm. In the Tampa area, more than 20 sinkholes opened up from the flash flooding. Water was up to the roofs at some homes in low lying areas of Live Oak, Fla., on Wednesday. Several feet of water remained around businesses in downtown near the courthouse and many roads were impassable.

LAKE CITY, FL

AmeriCorps NCCC Southern Region

August 11th

River 10, a 10 member team will be deploying August 11th to Lake City, Florida, to support the work of Lake City Regional Office of Catholic Charities (in partnership with Columbia County Emergency Management), performing mucking and gutting operations in flooded homes, as well as delivering disaster recovery information door-to-door, and cleaning any remaining debris in neighborhoods. River 10 will be deployed until September 7th.

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WESTERN WILDFIRES

Approximately 200 AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers deployed to fight wildfires, manage volunteers and donations, operate emergency shelters, and support call centers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah since late June. Members of AmeriCorps NCCC, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps State & National, and RSVP programs are working with federal, state, and local government agencies, the American Red Cross, the United Way, Adventist Community Services, and other organizations. Additional teams are being deployed as conditions evolve.

KITTITAS COUNTY, WA

NEW Washington Conservation Corps

August 20th

A 10 member team has been deployed to provide base camp support for the Taylor Bridge Fire. This team will be managing intake and distribution of supplies necessary to support Wildland firefighters. An additional 10 member team may be deployed in the coming days. This article gives more indepth information on this fire and has a photo of team members serving food to the firefighters: <http://littleurl.info/americorpsfireresponse~>

ATLANTA, ID

AmeriCorps NCCC Atlantic Region

August 13th

Phoenix 3, an eight member team is deploying to the Trinity Ridge Fire, near Atlanta, ID to support wildfire suppression. Phoenix 3 is deploying with a Fish and Wildlife Reserve team based out of northern Virginia. The team is expected to be deployed until August 28th.

FORT COLLINS, CO

AmeriCorps NCCC Southwest Region

August 6th

Fire 9, an eleven member team has deployed to Fort Collins to assist Adventist Community Services with donations distribution center operations. Fire 9 will provide center operations maintenance and will assist in expanding the distribution center to provide greater services to the community. This team has extended their term of service in order to serve the Fort Collins community. Fire 9 will end their deployment and their term of service on August 28th.

RSVP

July 30th

In July, 16 RSVP members with 3 Partner Agencies (American Red Cross Centennial Chapter, Catholic Charities of Denver, and Habitat for Humanity) have worked in a direct-response capacity to assist evacuees and survivors of the High Park fire, providing vouchers, case management, necessities, and cleanup.

In addition, 39 RSVP members with a number of other Partners have been working in an indirect response role, working behind the scenes to support organizations who have stepped up to fill in service gaps and provide necessities to evacuees and first responders. The agencies include: HELP

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International, House of Neighborly Service, Food Bank for Larimer County, Salvation Army, and Bellevue Senior Center.

RSVP has joined the Long Term Recovery coalition in Fort Collins and this effort will have a more comprehensive case management system to track unduplicated clients receiving services from multiple agencies. We should also be able to more easily track how many clients are served by RSVP volunteers working on long-term recovery, whether through one-time projects or as case managers.

NEW DISASTER EVENTS

For information on new disaster events, please visit FEMA's daily situation report at:

<http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/index.shtm>

Resources

Colorado Wildfire Assistance

For those interested in assisting those affected by the wildfires in Colorado, please visit:

www.HelpColoradoNow.org. This website identifies ways to donate time or resources to those in need.

If you would like to learn more about how you can assist communities affected by disaster visit www.serve.gov or <http://www.fema.gov/rebuild/recover/howtohelp.shtm>. If you would like to learn more about how to prepare your family and or community please visit www.ready.gov.